

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council meeting

held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 17 October 2024 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: R Aldcroft (Mayor), Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, P. Glover, G. Groves, R. Hughes, W. Love, T. Manton.

ABSENT: Councillors: I. Nellins and A. Sanderson.

In Attendance: 0 members of the public were present, and 3 members of the public listened to the meeting via Teams.

Clerks: Sue Thomas, Town Clerk and Kate Harvey, Assistant Clerk.

The Mayor announced the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

1.C APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor I. Nellins - Work Commitments

2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. No disclosable interests were declared.
- ii. No dispensations were received for consideration.

3.C PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public had requested to speak at the meeting.

4.C MINUTES

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Manton seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To approve and adopt the minutes of a Council meetings held on:

11 July 2024, Extraordinary Council on 1 August 2024 and 5 September 2024.

5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members **NOTED** the Mayor's report setting out all events attended by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.



Date	Event	Who Attended
11 July 24	RAF Shawbury Event	Mayor
16 July 24	In Bloom Judging	Mayor
17 July 24	St John's Ambulance Presentation	Mayor
20 July 24	Market Drayton Carnival	Deputy Mayor
24 July 24	In Bloom Judging	Mayor
10 August 24	Boxing 1 Year Anniversary BBQ	Mayor
11 August 24	Charity Afternoon Tea, Shrewsbury	Deputy Mayor
31 August 24	Tunstall Hall Care Centre Summer Fayre	Mayor
11 September 24	In Bloom Presentation Evening	Mayor
28 September 24	Ginger & Spice Festival	Deputy Mayor
28 September 24	Supporters BBQ at Fordhall Farm	Deputy Mayor

6.C COMMITTEE MINUTES

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Glover seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 3 abstentions:

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

11 July 2024

25 July 2024

5 September 2024

19 September 2024

3 October 2024

Councillor Erwin proposed, Councillor Manton seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 3 abstentions:

To agree the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee meetings held on:

Extraordinary Meeting 25 July 2024 19 September 2024

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor J. Beckett seconded and it was **RESOLVED**:

To agree the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee meetings held on:

25 July 2024

3 October 2024

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor J. Beckett seconded and it was **RESOLVED**:

To agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on:

5 September 2024.

7.C INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2024-25: Interim

The Internal Audit Report was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO86.

Members **NOTED** that no issues were identified as needing actioning and congratulated the Officers.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Hughes seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree and approve the Internal Audit Report 2024-25:

8.C TOWERS LAWN PUBLIC TOILETS (TM)

Towers Lawn Working Group notes were circulated prior to the meeting.

- i. Members **NOTED** the notes from the Towers Lawn Toilet Working Group meeting held on the 10 October 2024 as set out in Appendix C087.
- ii. A discussion was had about the new layout for Towers Lawn Toilets as set out in Appendix C088.

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Manton seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree, in principle, the new layout for Towers Lawn Toilets with the added modification to include an access door for the cleaner at the front of the building.

9.C GROTTO ROAD PLAY AREA

Six tenders were received for the play park. The designs and information packs were put out for members to view; all were within the tender price of £50,000.

- i. Members **NOTED** the notes from the Play Area Working Group held on 10 October 2024 as set out in Appendix C089.
- ii. The Chairman of the Working Group explained to members why they recommend quote 5. It was on the grounds that the equipment covered a wide age range, provided a nice array of equipment and was supplied by a local contractor.

Members discussed the tenders.

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To accept quote 5 for the installation of new equipment on Grotto Road Play Area at a cost of £49,834.

10.C PARTNERING TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN THE TOWN

A letter from Shropshire Council was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Members received an updated letter from Shropshire Council regarding their request for the Town Council to consider helping with the delivery of services in the area as set out in Appendix C091

Shropshire Council has suspended their current interactions with local councils on this subject but thanked Councils for their support and interaction.

The Clerk left the Chamber to get a glass of water for the Mayor.

Members discussed that Shropshire Council has only postponed the discussion; the issue may be discussed at a later date.

The Clerk entered the Chamber and rejoined the meeting.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Hughes seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To write back to Shropshire Council requesting the lines of communication are kept open regarding service provision in the town going forward.

11.C SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD PARTNERSHIP

The letter from Shropshire Good Food Partnership was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO92.

- i. Members consider a request from the Co-Director of Shropshire Good Food Partnership, requesting Council support a proposed three-year project to enable more young people to eat healthy food.
- ii. Members considered nominating a representative to the Shropshire Good Food Partnership Group.

Councillor Erwin proposed, Councillor Hughes seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree to support Shropshire Good Food Partnership with the proposed three years project to enable more young people to eat healthy food.

To nominate Councillor Glover as representative to the Shropshire Good Food Partnership Group.

12.C MARKET DRAYTON COVENANT GROUP

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO93.

Fordhall Community Land Initiative has been awarded £5k to trial a Community Covenant in Shropshire over the next 9-months. Members considered nominating a representative to the Market Drayton Covenant Group.

Councillor Groves proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To nominate Councillor Manton as representative to the Market Drayton Covenant Group.

13.C DRAYTON RELIEF IN NEED BOARD

The board give one off support grants to residents of Market Drayton. They meet twice a year to administer the fund. Members considered nominating a representative to the Drayton Relief in Need Board.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Hughes seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To nominate the Mayor as representative to the Drayton Relief in Need Board.

14.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Aldcroft Reported:

There is currently not much to report from Shropshire Council due to their financial difficulties.

Councillor Erwin asked if Shropshire Council will continue with the road resurfacing, the Shrewsbury ring road and the amphitheatre projects.

The Mayor replied that some road re-surfacing projects have been cancelled; the ring road and amphitheatre at Shrewsbury are continuing as they are capital projects.

The Mayor said 87% of the budget goes on social care, last year there were two hundred children in care, this has increased to seven hundred with no increase in the budget for children care.

Councillor Chapman said there is a lot of media regarding the dilemma Shropshire Council are in financially; he asked if there is an action group set up to see if the County are entitled to more funding.

The Mayor said there is a group who approach government on a regular basis.

In the absence of Councillor Nellins, The Mayor read out his updates:

Garden Waste

Registrations for garden waste service have now reached over 60,000 and raised just over £3.25m. The service, which costs £56 per bin, will now start from 04 Nov through until 31 Oct 25. The reason for the delay is due to a third-party contractor providing sub-standard bin stickers which were not to the specification ordered. The contract was therefore cancelled without payment. A new contractor was sourced, and bin stickers will be posted out before the end of October. The registration window is open until Mar 25.

Household Recycling Centres

From 4 November 24 residents will need to have booked to use HRCs. Bookings can be made from 29 Oct. The best way to book is online, www.shropshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebooking or by phone on 0345 678 9007. There are many positives to the booking system, which have been proven at other Local Authority HRC sites. These include better recycling rates, fewer journeys, no queues, improved assistance from staff, less congestion at peak times. The reason the booking system can save money is because it will deter out of the county residents and small businesses from using the household facility. As 4 of the 5 HRCs are on the County boundary, Shropshire Council is presently processing a lot of waste from cross-border residents as well as a lot of business (non-household) waste. This costs the council a significant amount of money to process.

Improved (64) Bus Service

As of 5 October, the 64 Service frequency has been improved to an hourly service. A single fare is still only £2. Hopefully residents will make use of the service.

15.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Payments documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix C094 and C095.

No questions were asked.

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Manton seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the payments from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024.

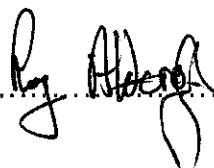
16.C INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Members **NOTED** the following updated:

- The Town Council representatives on MDSA have been removed as board members. MDSA has notified the Clerk that there is no requirement for the Town Council representatives to attend future meetings unless invited.
- Structural inspections of the lighting stantions on the Rugby Pitch training pitch have been carried out, we are awaiting copies of the reports from MDSA.
- Two new unknown Tommy Statues have been ordered to replace damaged ones.

The meeting concluded at 8.24 pm.

Chairman:



Date:

9/11/25

Minutes of a Council Meeting on 17 October 2024

Initial: 